IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

UNESCO

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Agenda item for discussion
Report on IPDC Special Initiatives and Emerging Issues

INFORMATION NOTE

SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document presents an update on the activities undertaken with respect to IPDC Special Initiatives on 1) the Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity, 2) media-related indicators, 3) Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education and 4) knowledge-driven media development: follow-up to SDGs. The document also reports on IPDC responses to emerging issues, namely on 1) media and migration and 2) fighting violent extremism. A key aspect of this report which runs throughout the narrative is its reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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1. BACKGROUND

This report provides an update on the implementation of IPDC's Special Initiatives and Projects, as follows:

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2.1 Special Initiative: The Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity

In 2008, the IPDC Intergovernmental Council adopted a Decision on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which provides a mandate for monitoring follow-up actions on the killings condemned by UNESCO's Director-General. This decision urges Member States "to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity" and "to inform the Director-General of UNESCO, on a voluntary basis, of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators and to notify him[/her] of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO".

Since then, a monitoring mechanism has been set up by which Member States are requested to inform UNESCO on the judicial follow-up carried out on each of the killings condemned by the UNESCO Director-General. Based on the information collected through this mechanism, the Director-General has every two years submitted to the IPDC Council a report on The Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, which provides background information on UNESCO's work in this area as well as an update on the killings of journalists condemned by UNESCO since 2006 and on the status of the judicial inquiries into each of these killings. Subsequent decisions on the Safety of Journalists have been adopted by the IPDC Council in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

The 2014 IPDC decision on the Safety of Journalists invites *inter alia* the Bureau of the IPDC Council to "continue to give priority to projects that further the objectives of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity". It also encourages the Director-General and Member States to "continue their efforts in mobilizing additional extra-budgetary funding for this core area of competence of UNESCO" and urges Member States to "promote the safety of journalists by taking advantage of the knowledge, experiences and opportunities available through participation in the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity […]".

In 2011, General Conference Resolution C36/53 called for monitoring of and reporting to the General Conference on the status of press freedom and safety of journalists, with emphasis on "cases of impunity for violence against journalists, including monitoring the judicial follow-up through the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)". This reporting falls in alternate years to the session of the IPDC Council, and is published within the report on World Trends on Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

The UN Plan of Action, which was spearheaded by the IPDC Council continues to be supported by the IPDC through grants to projects that address the activity areas of the Plan: awareness-raising, standard setting & policy making, monitoring and reporting, capacity building, academic research and coalition building. Since the IPDC decision on making the safety of journalists a priority in 2008, 60 projects related to safety have been approved for funding in more than 30 countries for nearly US$ 1.2 million dollars. Details are provided in a separate document, presented first to the 60th IPDC Bureau in March 2016.[1] In addition to supporting project applications on safety, the Bureau also made special allocations totaling $70 000 for capacity-building activities in monitoring at country-level, a booklet in multiple languages explaining the IPDC monitoring mechanism, and a compilation of best practices in safety around the world.

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[1] IPDC's Role in the Promotion of the Safety of Journalists: A Way Forward.
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Analytical_Paper_IPDC_Safety_of_Journalists_SChocarro_DE.pdf

The UN Plan of Action has been recognized in the most recent resolutions and decisions on journalists' safety adopted by the UN Security Council, General Assembly, Human Rights Council and UNESCO, which condemn all attacks and violence against media workers. Several of these statements call for strengthening global monitoring and reporting mechanisms about safety and also underline the importance for practical measures to be taken by Member States to end impunity.

Furthermore, at its last Bureau meeting in March 2016, the IPDC adopted the safety of journalists as priority focus area for the Programme and requested the IPDC Secretariat to present an IPDC Strategy in this area to the 30th session of the IPDC Council. This strategy is presented under a separate agenda item.

2.2. Special Initiative: Media-related Indicators: Media Development Indicators (MDIs), Journalists Safety Indicators (JSIs) and Media Viability Indicators (MVIs)

This section gives an update on two key media-diagnostic tools that the IPDC relies upon for some of its normative work, including support research of media and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include the MDIs and the JSIs.

In terms of the **MDIs**, endorsed by the IPDC Council in 2008, they have become a well-established reference for media development stakeholders worldwide. Their scope of application is steadily increasing, with MDI applications concerning almost 40 countries to date. Since 2014, studies have been completed in Bolivia, Brazil, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Libya (partial assessment), Jordan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Palestine, South Sudan, Swaziland and Uruguay.[2]

One of the key components of the MDI reports are their recommendations, which provide a roadmap for media development interventions and legal and policy reform based on objectively identified needs, as expressed by national media stakeholders and with reference to international standards and good practice. Increasingly, follow-up activities are organized to catalyze the implementation of key recommendations. Examples include:

- In Jordan, UNESCO initiated a dialogue with universities teaching journalism to engage academia and students on the outcomes of the MDI assessment.
- In Palestine, in line with a key recommendation of the MDI Report on Palestine (2014), UNESCO has provided technical assistance to the national authorities in the finalization of a right to information law in Palestine and promoted its adoption among key stakeholders.
- In Mongolia, in response to one of the key recommendations of the MDI Report to repeal current regulation and amend draft laws related to digital media, UNESCO launched a project to sensitize decision makers involved in the drafting of laws on international standards regarding freedom of expression, including online, and to support independent monitoring of freedom of expression violations in cyberspace.
- In Curaçao, UNESCO supported a successful series of Master Classes based on the MDIs.

The MDI projects are also designed as capacity building exercises aimed both at building national research skills in the field of media and at providing media stakeholders with a better understanding

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[2] Seven of these have been published while seven are awaiting publication, having already been reviewed and edited by international media experts and UNESCO.

of international standards related to media and freedom of expression. Nine training workshops on the MDI methodology have thus been organized since 2014.

At its 53rd (2009), 54th (2011) and 59th (2015) meetings, the IPDC Bureau approved special allocations of respectively US$ 100,000, US$ 100,000[3] and US$ 40,000 for projects involving the application of the Media Development Indicators or follow-up thereto. The allocations have contributed to supporting MDI applications in 15 countries.

As regards the **JSIs**, these allow for a mapping of the key features that indicate the extent to which journalists are or are not able to carry out their work under safe conditions. The JSIs also serve to identify the actions that are taken by the various relevant stakeholders in promoting journalists' safety and fighting impunity at national level. These actors include State and political actors, civil society organizations and academics, the UN and international NGOs, and media and intermediaries. As such, the JSIs are an important tool for measuring progress in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Since 2014, five Journalists' Safety Indicators (JSI) assessments have been completed in Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Nepal, and Pakistan, in cooperation with local research institutions. Assessments are ongoing in Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Sudan, in addition to a regional study covering Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Based on JSI findings, a national safety mechanism is now being developed in Pakistan, in order to support the safety of journalists in the country. The findings of the Guatemala report have been used locally in discussions with various stakeholders for the same purpose.

Through a partnership with the Deutsche Welle Akademie, UNESCO has also developed a new sub-set of indicators on media viability, which was submitted to a wide international consultation process in 2014-2015. The purpose of the Media Viability Indicators (**MVIs**) is to provide a tool to help assess the sustainability of media businesses and assist actors, through their application, in developing appropriate responses that can promote media viability as an important pillar of media development. The draft indicators were presented to the IPDC Bureau at its 59th meeting in 2015, and the Bureau adopted a decision endorsing the initiative to develop indicators of media sustainability and encouraging their application. However, due to lack of funding, the MVIs have yet to be piloted.

2.3. Special Initiative: Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education

This section gives an update on work carried out within the framework of the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education. It reflects the IPDC's efforts to realign UNESCO's support for journalism education in a way that reflects the teaching, practising and researching of journalism from a global perspective. In particular, the update focuses on how recent IPDC publications have become an important information resource for journalism training beyond established journalism classrooms, demonstrating the Programme's ongoing invaluable contribution towards non-formal (journalism) training.

To this end, the Council is reminded of the IPDC publication titled "Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists" (2013) which was first launched in Ghana by the country's former President and current UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, John Kufuor. Using the guidebook, several key activities have unfolded, including the following:

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[3] This allocation was reduced by US$ 8,000 by the IPDC Secretariat in 2015 to accommodate new IPDC project proposals.

i) Collaboration with the French Agency for Media Cooperation (CFI) to train 18 African journalists, who then reported on the International Scientific Conference and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) events in July and December 2015 respectively.

ii) Further COP21-linked work involved use of this guidebook by the IPDC to forge a strategic partnership with the Franco-Russian think tank Destination Est, whereby the IPDC was invited to address a group of 15 Russian journalists on reporting the global problem of climate change and how the Programme was supporting journalistic training interventions in this regard. A related activity involved the IPDC cooperating with UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to co-host a media breakfast for the presentation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 5th Assessment Report. Over 20 journalists, mostly drawn from the IPDC's partners CFI (French Agency for Media Cooperation) and Internews, participated in the event, where the IPDC outlined its work in building the capacities of developing-country and other journalists through the guidebook.

iii) Outside Africa, the guidebook was instrumental in two workshops held by the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office in Iran and Turkmenistan. While some 35 journalists participated in Tehran, over 85 journalism students and professors took part in Ashgabat.

iv) Furthermore, the guidebook was translated into Tamil by the School of Linguistics and Communication of India's Madurai Kamaraj University for the benefit of young and aspiring Tamil language journalists, who were scheduled to participate in a training programme supported by Internews. New references relevant to the region were included in the translated version, thereby enriching it for wider application.

Another IPDC publication -- "Model Curriculum for Journalism Education: A Compendium of New Syllabi" (2013) -- was translated into Chinese, with support from the Communication University of China (CUC), which hosted a review of the Chinese version. More than 100 experts and scholars participated in the review. It was also translated into the Mongolian and French languages, with the Mongolian version already published online.

The IPDC's work to support the teaching of specialized journalism courses continued during the period under review, with the Programme publishing and launching its new publication titled "Teaching Journalism for Sustainable Development: New Syllabi" in Mexico City at the Universidad Iberoamericana. The launch was part of the annual conference of ORBICOM – the network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication – held in October 2015. The publication was explicitly linked to UNESCO's role in advocating for the inclusion of media development within the newly-adopted SDGs, for which a global indicators framework has been elaborated, as per the update in section 2.1 above.

Finally, in its effort to broaden the regional representation of UNESCO Chairs in Communication, the IPDC supported and eventually helped to secure the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Communication and Sustainable Development at Pancasila University in Indonesia. This chair will contribute towards a more scholarly reflection on, including undertaking research into, the role of media and communication in the achievement of the 17 SDGs.

Post-COP21 and the media: Malaysian Funds-In-Trust (FIT) project

This project is founded on the COP21 Paris Agreement, and seeks to build the capacity of media institutions in reporting on climate change, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. More specifically, it

draws its programmatic thrust from Articles 6, 12 and 14 of the Paris Agreement, which emphasize nationally determined contributions, climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information as well as a global stocktake, whereby the COP shall periodically take stock of the implementation of the Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose of reduced carbon emissions. To this end, the project will be implemented by way of enhancing specialized journalistic knowledge and skills as well as building inter-regional collaboration in reporting on climate change. An important feature of its implementation will include the development of a reporting guidebook for the Asia-Pacific region, along the lines of the Africa-related guidebook referred to in section 2.2 above.

It is also worth noting that this project will include some Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well. As such, it will reinforce the IPDC's ongoing support, through annual grants, for media projects which include a focus on raising awareness of environmental sustainability within the larger vision of SDGs. At the time of preparing this report, the project, with a budget of USD145,000, had just been activated.

2.4 Special Initiative: Knowledge-Driven Media Development: Follow-up to SDGs

The UN General Assembly has since adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the Open Working Group. In particular, there is now a global indicators framework in place for each of the 169 targets associated with the SDGs.

Target 16.10 of the SDGs framework specifies "public access to information" and protecting "fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements". Goal 16 itself aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". [4] To this end, the 58th meeting of the IPDC Bureau reaffirmed commitment to the SDG process, culminating in the 29th session of the IPDC Council urging "IPDC Member States to ensure freedom of expression, free, independent and pluralistic media … issues are integrated into the … Post-2015 Development Agenda."

Accordingly, the IPDC Secretariat made efforts at building greater partnerships within the UN System and with a larger coalition of non-governmental international media development actors to contribute to the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs on their elaboration of the global indicators framework referred to above. Their initial meeting took place in New York in June 2015, followed by a second one in Bangkok in October.

As part of its effort to build advocacy coalitions, UNESCO engaged in discussion with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank and over 200 international, regional and national media development actors represented by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD). Against this background, two indicators were finally settled on, namely:

Priority indicator: **'Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months'.** While this indicator does not cover every aspect of this particular target, it does identify one of the most salient and measurable dimensions

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[4] See Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. 2014. *Outcome Document - Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*. Available [0]: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html. Accessed 03/09/2014.

that impact on the whole. Further, it is an indicator that draws upon existing UN agreements and mechanisms for data collection. Some of the components on journalists and media personnel, namely that on killings and judicial follow-up, are already monitored regularly by UNESCO under the mandates discussed above concerning IPDC's Special Initiative on safety. More importantly, both from a methodological standpoint and for its relevance to the measurement of the "fundamental freedoms" enshrined in Target 16.10, this indicator is relevant to UNESCO's abiding interest in pushing for freedom of expression and media development as a key aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Additional indicator: **Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.**

These two indicators have since been endorsed by Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGS (IAEG-SDGs), adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and presented to the Coordination and Management Committee of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). They are yet to be formally adopted by ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly.

It is worth noting that UNESCO has been designated by UNSC as the 'custodian' UN agency for Indicator 16.10.2, meaning that, through the IPDC, the Organization is officially mandated to undertake the following:

- Collecting data from national statistical systems
- Providing storyline for the annual global SDG progress report, including the High Level Political Forum's Global Sustainable Development Report
- Providing and regularly updating metadata
- Working on the methodological development and further refinement of the indicator
- Contributing to statistical capacity building in the area of the indicator
- Coordinating with other agencies and stakeholders who are interested in contributing to the indicator development

UNESCO will also serve as a 'contributing' UN agency for Indicator 16.10.1, with OHCHR taking the lead, under the general guidance of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics.[5]

More specifically, Council members may wish to note that Indicator 16.10.2 seeks to establish three key things: (a) whether a country (or at the global level, the number of countries) has constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information; (b) the extent to which such national guarantees reflect 'international agreements' (e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc.); and (c) the implementation mechanisms in place for such guarantees, including the following aspects: (i) Government efforts to publicly promote the right to information; (ii) citizens' awareness of their legal right to information and their ability to utilise it effectively; and (iii) the capacity of public bodies to provide information upon request by the public.

Other activities carried out, all of which were aimed at building awareness of communications issues in sustainable development referred to above, included the following:

    i)   IPDCTalks, sponsored by the delegations of the Netherlands and Lithuania, marked the IPDC's celebration of the first International Day for Universal Access to Information.

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[5] The Praia Group on Governance Statistics is headed by Cape Verde and works with UN agencies and other stakeholder groups to refine the measurement and reporting on the 'governance' indicators related to SDG 16.

Held on 26 September 2016, the IPDCTalks was a day-long event themed "Powering sustainable development with public access to information". Convened by IPDC in association with the the Information for All Programme (IFAP), it was supported by financially by The Netherlands and Lithuania. Streamed live across the world, and widely tweeted, the talks highlighted the key importance of Access to Information in the success of implementation of the SDGs. The event entailed a series of dynamic presentations by philosophers, journalists, intellectuals, entrepreneurs, community leaders and the Ghanaian President, HE John Dramani Mahama. Each spoke about the contribution of media, information and ICT to achieving the different SDGs.

ii) An Expert Workshop was held on 19 September 2016 in Tangerang (near Jakarta), Indonesia, as part of UNESCO's mandate as a 'custodian agency' for Indicator 16.10.2. Over 30 experts attended the workshop, contributing towards conceptually and methodologically operationalising the indicator and addressing the data gap on implementation of FOI guarantees. The workshop called for data triangulation as part of the solution, drawing on multiple data holdings in an evolving dynamic of data partnerships which UNESCO is leading in this regard. The workshop was held alongside the World Forum on Media Development held by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), in conjunction with the Indonesian Press Council (IPC).

iii) During the World Press Freedom Day celebrations held in Riga, Latvia, the IPDC participated in a side-event at the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) as part of UNESCO's engagement with civil society to build support for the development of indicators for Target 16.10.

iv) The IPDC participated in another side-event alongside the Security Council during 2015. Under the theme of "Protection of journalists and media freedom: key to sustainable future", the side-event was co-organised by Lithuanian and Latvian permanent delegations to the United Nations, and marked the IPDC's cooperation with governments actively working to push for the inclusion of media issues in the SDG framework.

v) Finally, the IPDC published a new book titled *Teaching Journalism for Sustainable Development: New Syllabi*. It was launched in October 2015 during the annual conference of ORBICOM (the network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication) held in Mexico. It is currently being translated into Farsi and Spanish, with support from field offices in Tehran and Mexico City.

3. Emerging issues

3.1 Emerging issue: Media and Migration

In March 2016, responding to the unprecedented migratory crisis, IPDC Secretariat organized a **thematic debate on Media and Migration** during the 60th Meeting of the IPDC Bureau. The debate aimed to better tune the work of IPDC with the needs of news media when reporting on migrants and the refugee crisis all over the world. The debate demonstrated IPDC's response to contemporary issues; focused attention on the media issues related to the Syrian refugee crisis in particular, as well as raised broader issues relevant to many other situations; clarified the roles played by news media and social media; and provided the IPDC Bureau with insight that could enrich discussion on future priorities for projects.

Although many media outlets have focused on humanistic reporting and on telling the stories of refugees, very few journalists are trained to cover this issue – with important consequences. The experts agreed that newsrooms lack capacity to cope with such an unprecedented situation, and that

more means are needed to report on this issue appropriately. Support is also needed for refugee media, and for networks of refugee journalists, so that refugees themselves can tell their own story.

After the debate, the IPDC Bureau agreed on follow-up action to promote best practices of professional reporting on this issue and high ethical standards in this field.

As a follow-up to this decision, IPDC Chair and Mr Blicher Bjerregard, IPDC Bureau member, Representative of Denmark and President of the European Federation of Journalists, visited Ankara from 9 to 11 May 2016. The mission was organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Turkey to UNESCO and the Anadolu News Agency Journalism Academy (AA).

The objective of the mission was to discuss IPDC collaboration with Turkish media, the Directorate of Press and Information, the Turkish Development Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and the AA in the field of media and migration, as announced by Ambassador H.A. Botsali during the 60th IPDC Bureau meeting in March this year.

As a result, an IPDC project was formulated in cooperation with the Turkish delegation based on research and perceived need of journalists and media organizations to increase their skills and knowledge in reporting about the issue of migration and refugees. The project was foreseen to consist of organizing a series of training workshops by skilled national and international lecturers and journalists associated with universities, professional media and journalists' organizations. It was agreed that the project would also include training on safety of journalists and the situation of women refugees, based on UNESCO/IPDC's syllabus on "Reporting Migration, with a focus on refugees". The project is now awaiting confirmation of funding.

During the visit, IPDC delegates were also able to address challenges of press freedom, the situation of media and journalists in Turkey, particularly issues related to accreditation, media polarization and the use of the Anti-Terrorism Law. It was discussed to develop a dialogue on these topics.

3.2 Emerging issue: Fighting Violent Extremism

UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP) initiated an **International Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting radicalization and extremism,** at UNESCO HQ on 16-17 June 2015. The event was convened in association with IPDC, which also made a financial contribution to the Conference that enabled the convening of a panel of experts on issues particularly relevant to the IPDC Programme. The conference provided profile to IPDC through the Chair moderating this panel and delivering opening remarks. The Conference provided a stage for launching UNESCO's new Integrated Framework for Action – Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 Building skills, Bolstering Peace. As a follow-up to the Conference, a number of follow-up house-wide projects on Empowering Youth to Build Peace were prepared and submitted to donors with the full involvement of IPDC Secretariat. A number of multi-stakeholder partnerships and commitments to support effective international collaboration aligned with the UNESCO Framework are being mobilized, which could in due course result in IPDC attracting funding for relevant projects and activities within its mandate.

Within the UNESCO Integrated Framework, UNESCO also organizing an expert meeting on the concept of cyber citizenship, in June in UNESCO Headquarters, to be followed by a conference on the same topic in Montreal in October 2016 that is currently being organized in collaboration with the government of Quebec (Canada), and where the IPDC Chair is scheduled to speak about the role of media and social media in countering violent extremism.

Similarly, UNESCO, in partnership with the German National Commission for UNESCO, hosted a session on Combatting Online Hate Speech and Youth Radicalization in Bonn (Germany), on 14 June 2016, within the framework of the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum. Moderated by Ms Albana Shala, IPDC Chair, the panel included well-known experts in the field. Speakers highlighted that there is no simple cause-effect relationship between Internet and youth radicalization, and that the context, psychological and external factors play an important role. While social networks can be amplifiers and facilitators, they rarely trigger radicalization. Combatting the spread of online hate speech, extremist propaganda and recruitment for terrorism and radicalization ills should not be at the expense of freedom of expression, underlined the experts. Panelists also discussed possible solutions for current use of the Internet as a vehicle for hate-speech and how Media and Information Literacy (MIL) can empower young people to use media critically.

3. CONCLUSION

IPDC's Special Initiatives have produced a significant volume of knowledge on different aspects of media development and have led to the implementation of high-impact projects in different regions of the world.

The IPDC contribution to the conceptualisation of sustainable development beyond 2015, coupled with a strong mandate from the UNESCO General Conference, the IPDC Bureau and the IPDC Council, have resulted in the adoption of indicators within the 2030 Agenda that are relevant to freedom of expression and media development. UNESCO's role as a 'custodian' and 'contributing' agency for indicators 16.10.2 and 16.10.1 respectively, will draw on the IPDC's diagnostic tools, namely the MDIs and the JSIs, among other data sources. The IPDC's Special Initiative on Safety of Journalists provides additional contributions to achieving SDG 16, and the IPDCTalks have highlighted how communications issues in general, along with ICT, are relevant to all the SDGs.

Similarly, the Special Initiative on journalism education, such as through the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education and such special projects as the Malaysian FIT project on reporting climate change, will help to facilitate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, the IPDC Emerging Issues have also enabled engagement with other media challenges of relevance to sustainable development, such as migration and refugees, as well as radicalisation and violent extremism.

4. COUNCIL ACTION

The Council, having discussed this document, may wish to:

- Welcome the status report and encourage continual engagement by the IPDC Special Initiatives and Emerging Issues in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Urge Member States to financially support the IPDC's new responsibility of reporting global progress on indicators 16.10.1 and 16.10.2 via the UN Secretary-General SDG Progress Report and other processes.
- Request the Secretariat to strengthen IPDC's Special Initiatives and further position them so that they continue to contribute to Sustainable Development through impact on relevant

dimensions of media development; and encourage the Programme to continue to be responsive in identifying and acting on Emerging Issues.

- Request Member States to provide support for the organization of an "IPDC Talks 2", following the successful conference format of IPDC Talks 1, where possible also encouraging this initiative in field offices, and fully exploiting social media to sensitize people worldwide on the power of public access to information and the role of media in the realization of SDGs.